

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
TOPIC	General Military Information	1. 2nd Infantry Division 2. 26th and 25th Infantry Regiments 3. Miscellaneous Military Information	25X1
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Second Infantry Division in Susice.

1. Prior to 15 May 1952, the headquarters of the 2d Inf Div was located in Susice (Schuettenhofen) (N 50/Q 28). The headquarters was quartered in a park on the western edge of the town, on the south side of Seidlova ul. The commanding general of the division was General Kolovratnik (fnu) and his chief of staff was Major Spisiak (fnu). The political officer assigned to this headquarters was Captain Cerny (fnu). A Soviet colonel who wore a dark-blue uniform was frequently observed at the headquarters. In late 1951, all windows of the headquarters building were provided with black-out facilities.¹
2. Units assigned to this division included a signal and an engineer unit quartered in a cantonment in Susice, an engineer unit in Strelecke Hostice (Strahlhoschitz) (N 50/Q 56) and an artillery unit in Prachatice (N 50/Q 39) which was equipped with about 20 SP guns fitted with muzzle brakes and dual solid rubber-tired wheels, about 15 guns of a light caliber without muzzle brakes and 12 x 120-mm mortars.² Other units assigned to the division were the 23d Inf Regt in Nyrsko (N 50/U 00), which had 45-mm guns, 82-mm and 120-mm mortars and about 100 trucks; the 10th Arty Regt and the 25th Inf Regt in Klatovy (Klattau) (N 50/L 00), and an SP gun unit in Chytec (Obitz) (N 50/L 00) which was equipped with at least 15 T-34 tanks and 8 SP guns.³
3. The motor vehicle repair shop of the division was composed of two departments; one was located in Prelouc (O 51/M 58) and handled major repairs, while the other was located in a former glassworks on the western edge of Rejstejn (Unter-Reichenstein) (N 50/Q 27). About 35 skilled workers were employed there. No more than 10 trucks were being repaired there at the same time. The quarters of the 2d Motor Transport Co of the division were near the latter workshop. The company numbered about 120 men. About 70 model Praga RN and model Aero 150 trucks were seen at a parking lot near the billeting area of this unit.⁴

26th Infantry Regt in Vimperk.

4. Prior to early November 1951, the 26th Inf Regt, which was also assigned to the 2d Inf Div in Susice, was stationed in Vimperk (N 50/Q 46). Its commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Ferdinand Oklestek; his deputy, prior to September 1951, was Major Maly (fnu); political officer of the unit was Senior Lieutenant Pesek (fnu); artillery officer, Captain Martin (fnu); administrative

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officer, Major Churan (fnu); and commanding officer of the 3d Bn of the regiment was Captain Hustava (fnu). The regiment with its regimental units and the 2d Bn was located at the Obere Kaserne southeast of the town. The 3d Bn was quartered in the former Steinbrenner Factory and the former Vltava Hotel. The 1st Bn was located in Kasperske Hory (N 50/Q 27).⁵ and ⁶

5. The regimental units included the regimental band, the headquarters company of about 35 men, a tactical company, a reconnaissance platoon of about 20 men, a gas defense platoon of about 15 men, a motor transport platoon of about 50 men, a supply platoon of about 20 men, an AA machine gun platoon of about 15 men and 2 guns, an artillery company with 12 guns of a light caliber, a mortar company equipped with 6 x 120-mm mortars and an SP gun unit equipped with 6 old German 1P guns. The battalions consisted of a headquarters with signal and supply platoons, 3 rifle companies, a heavy machine gun company, an armored infantry unit, a howitzer company and a mortar company equipped with 82-mm mortars. An NCO school attended by about 250 men was also assigned to the regiment.⁵
6. In October 1951, the regiment was equipped with about 100 horses and 10 horse-drawn vehicles. In early 1951, the regiment was being equipped with motor vehicles. In October 1951, about 70 model Praga RN trucks, about 30 model Aero 150 trucks, 6 prime movers for mortars and about 25 motorcycles were available to the regiment.⁷
7. In late 1951, four rocket launchers were observed for the first time at the barracks installation of the 1st Bn in Kasperske Hory.⁸

Miscellaneous.

8. In late 1951, the Krakany barracks located south of Nitra (P L9/T 62) quartered officer candidates. These officer candidates were once observed conducting driving school in Nitra with about 15 trucks. The Mestske Barracks in the center of the town housed various military agencies. The Zubor Barracks northeast of the town quartered a motorized artillery unit prior to October 1950.⁹

25th Infantry Regiment in Klatovy.

9. Prior to 15 May 1952, the 25th Inf Bn having Utvar No 1574 and the surname Narodniho hrdiny Jana Svermy was located in Klatovy. The regiment was assigned to the 2d Inf Div in Susice, which was commanded by Brig General Kolovratnik who was promoted to this rank in January 1952. Soviet Colonel Dunecky (fnu), his military adviser, was repeatedly seen together with the commanding general. Dunecky wore dark blue riding breeches and a dark blue blouse with golden epaulets with three golden stars and a dark blue visor-type cap with red pipings.¹
10. The bulk of the regiment was quartered in the Neue Kaserne in Klatovy at the eastern perimeter of the town. This installation consisted of about 15 brick buildings and two low wooden buildings. The 1st Bn of the regiment was quartered in the Pod Vezi Barracks on Masaryk Square, and the regimental band was quartered in the former Stary soud court buildings on the same square.⁵
11. Since the fall of 1951, regimental commander was Major Veloslav Siska, whose predecessor, one Major Simek (fnu), was appointed chief of the district komendatura (okresni vojenske velitelstvi) (OVV) in Klatovy. Major Siska's deputy was Captain Milos Brabenec; political officer, Senior Lieutenant Nemecek (fnu); veterinary officer, Captain Tlusty who was assisted by Captain Madle (fnu). Medical officer was Staff Captain (Med) Tuma (fnu) who, since the

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autumn of 1951, had replaced Lieutenant Colonel (Med) Holy (fnu). Commanding officer of the 1st Bn was Senior Lieutenant Babanek (fnu); commanding officer of the 2d Bn, Senior Lieutenant Stefan Turani; political officer of the 2d Bn, Lieutenant Sejd, commanding officer of the 6th Inf Co, Captain Rostislav Kope-nec, and commanding officer of the 3d Bn was Senior Lieutenant Stefan Gramata.

12. In May 1952, about 70 percent of the regiment were Slovaks and about 30 percent Czechs. On 21 October 1951, the members of the 1927 and 1928 classes were discharged. On 1 November, about 1,200 recruits of the 1929 and 1930 classes arrived at the regiment.¹⁰
13. The regimental units included the regimental band of about 35 men, the headquarters platoon of about 25 men, the reconnaissance platoon of about 30 men, the AA machine gun platoon of about 20 men, an AT company, a mortar company of about 50 men and an SP gun company of about 40 men, which was attached to the regiment in November 1951. Each of the three battalions consisted of a supply platoon of 15 to 20 men, a signal platoon of about 25 men, an armored infantry platoon of about 30 men, 3 rifle companies of about 60 men each while their authorized strength was 110 men, a heavy machine gun company of 30 to 40 men, a mortar company of about 40 men and an AT company of about 40 men. An NCO school attended by about 400 men was also attached to the regiment.⁵
14. The AA machine gun platoon was equipped with 3 x 20-mm AA machine guns which were mounted on carriages drawn by trucks. When emplaced they were fitted on tripods about 1.5 meters high. Each of the howitzer companies was equipped with 6 x 76.2-mm guns, without muzzle brakes, which were towed by trucks. The mortar company of the regiment had 6 x 120-mm mortars, that of the battalions 6 x 82-mm mortars. The SP gun company was equipped with 6 German SP guns which were also called AT guns. The SP guns had four bogie wheels besides 1 idler wheel. This gun had a caliber of 70 to 100-mm, was mounted on the right hand side of the tank and had no muzzle brake. A rod antenna was fitted on the left rear side of the tank. The armored infantry unit was armed with 15 bazookas of a caliber of about 150 mm and about 1.5 meters long. These bazookas, which had a protective shield and weighed 11 kg, were carried on the shoulders. The heavy machine gun company was equipped with nine model 37 heavy machine guns which were mostly transported on a horse-drawn carriage. The rifle companies were armed with model 98 N rifles, model 25 submachine guns, 9 model 26 light machine guns and 2 model 37 heavy machine guns. Each of the signal platoons of the battalions was equipped with 16 to 20 German telephone sets and 2 radio sets in wooden cases. These signal platoons were combined to one unit when exercises were held. About 500 model 98 N rifles were seen in a building of the installation. Each soldier of the regiment was equipped with a German gas mask, a gas protective cane, a spade, a rucksack and a steel helmet.¹¹
15. The regiment was equipped with an estimated 200 horses, most of them draft horses and a number of factory new Czech vehicles. Motor vehicles available included about 120 trucks, 10 of which were of model Steyr, about 40 of model Aero 150, and the remainder of model Praga RN, in addition to some sedans, jeeps and about 30 motorcycles, the latter assigned to the reconnaissance platoon. The number of motor vehicles was continuously increased, but nevertheless the number of horse-drawn vehicles was not being reduced.⁷
16. The training of the NCO candidates was started in early December 1951 and was scheduled to last until September 1952. The NCO school had a rifle, a heavy machine gun, a mortar and a howitzer company, which had the same T/E of heavy weapons as the corresponding companies of the regiment. Between the spring and the fall of 1951, a training course for the handling of SP guns was given at Turciansky Sv Martin (Q 50/Q 69).¹² In July and August 1951, the regiment was at a training camp at Bolitice (N 49/Q 74). On 14 May 1952, the entire regiment moved to a training camp near Glaserwald (N 50/Q 17). Work on the construction of this

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camp was started on 24 April 1952 by setting up wooden scaffolds for tents, preparing roads and cutting trees. According to rumors this camp was scheduled to house the entire 2d Inf Div. During 1951, about 50 reserve officers were activated and assigned to the regiment. The training area of the regiment was northwest of the town, about 1,500 meters northwest of the railroad station.

17. The morale of the soldiers was rather poor because passes were only granted as a reward. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, every soldier had to participate in sports activities and thus there was no time left for personal affairs.
18. The 10th Mtz Arty Regt which was equipped with 105-mm guns, was quartered in the former Kavallerie Barracks located on the southwestern perimeter of Klatovy. [] saw more than 10 guns towed by Ford trucks when this unit left its barracks installation. The guns had dual wheels with solid rubber tires and a barrel about 2 meters long with a muzzle brake. In March 1952, the soldiers were given crossed-barrel insignia. The gun crews of the infantry did not wear this insignia.²
19. In June 1951, the 23d Inf Regt was quartered in a cantonment in Myrsko (N 50/U 99). PS members were also observed in the town.⁵
20. In May 1952, a motorized artillery unit was observed in Prachaticce. About 12 guns of the same type as those observed in Klatovy were observed at a parking lot.²
21. A signal unit assigned to the 2d Inf Div was located in Susice.
22. The castle located on the western perimeter of Obytce quartered a tank unit equipped with T-34 tanks. The EM of this unit wore red-bordered black epaulets with a gold colored tank insignia. Several times, up to 25 tanks whose guns had long barrels were observed with this unit. A Captain Otahal (fnu) was assigned to this unit.³
23. Prior to November 1951, the district komendatura in Nachod (O 51/G 93) was located on the main square of the town not far from the municipal swimming pool. The commanding officer of the office was one Major Tacheci (fnu). Staff Captain David (fnu) and Captain Protivinsky were also assigned to this office. Prior to November 1951, military books for delivery by mail to all reservists up to 52 years old were prepared in this office.

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1. ~~UNRECORDED~~ Comment. The 2d Inf Div in Susice with General Kolovratnik as its commander is confirmed until May 1952. []
2. ~~UNRECORDED~~ Comment. The organization of the division [] corresponds to that of a Soviet motorized rifle division. The 10th Arty Regt is confirmed as being located in Klatovy. The artillery unit reportedly located in Prachaticce may belong to this regiment, although the number of artillery pieces observed at the two places would be too high for the equipment of one regiment even if an allowance would be made for the fact that the guns of the 260th AT Bn which is carried as being stationed in Klatovy, may have been included in this number. As, [] an artillery unit of the 2d Div was located in Horazdovice, it appears more probable, that a second artillery regiment was being activated by the division. The types of the guns mentioned could not be identified.

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3. Comment. This combined tank and SP gun unit does not correspond to the Soviet-type tank and SP units. It remains to be seen whether this type of unit will be enlarged. 25X1
4. Comment. The former glassworks quartered a motor transport unit of the 2d Div in December 1950. 25X1
5. Comment. These data confirm the 23d Inf Regt in Myrsko, the 25th Inf Regt in Klatovy and the 26th Inf Regt in Vimperk with its 1st Bn in Kasperske Hory. The organization of these units as stated in the present report agrees with that of a Soviet motorized rifle regiment. It is believed that the reconnaissance, gas defense and AA machine gun platoons are assigned to one headquarters company. It is believed that the AT company of the regiment is not equipped with 12 but with six guns. 25X1
6. Comment. It appears that Lieutenant Colonel Oklestek (fnu) was released as commanding officer of the 26th Inf Regt as one Major Svelozov Chytil reportedly was commanding officer of this unit in December 1951. Major Maly is confirmed as being the deputy commander of the 26th Inf Regt until September 1951. Already in February 1951, Major Simek was the commanding officer of the 25th Inf Regt. Captain Milos Brabenek may be identical with the senior lieutenant of the same name, who, in September 1950, was assigned as a political officer to the 80th Guard Bn in Prague. Senior Lieutenant Babenek is confirmed as the commanding officer of the 1st Bn of the 25th Inf Regt until May 1952. 25X1
7. Comment. The infantry regiments have not yet been brought to their full personnel and motor vehicle strength. 25X1
8. 25X1
9. Comment. In September 1951, the military academy was allegedly located in the Stefanikovy or Zobor Barracks. In November 1951, a motor transport battalion was said to have been quartered in the Krskany Barracks. It is possible that driving school for officer candidates is being conducted by this battalion. 25X1
10. Comment. The bulk of the 1928 class was inducted in the fall of 1950, so that only those members of this class were discharged in the fall of 1951 which had been inducted in the fall of 1949. In the fall of 1951, only the remainder of the 1929 class was inducted. Members of this class have been inducted since the fall of 1950. Most of the recruits are believed to have belonged to the 1930 class. 25X1

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11. [] Comment. Very probably, the statement that the AA machine guns had a caliber of more than 20-mm is erroneous. []
[] the model 37 heavy machine gun was being used as an AA machine gun. The guns with which the howitzer companies are equipped, may be the Soviet model M 1943 76-mm infantry gun. The SF guns reported were probably German model 39 75-mm AT guns on model 38 (t) chassis. []
[] It is interesting to note that the units were equipped with German gas masks. 25X1
12. [] Comment. It is believed that this training course was given by the 352d SF gun or Tank Regt in Turc.Sv.Martin. 25X1

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